Certified No. PO4 9037112

Mrs. Anna Marie Kniffin 2784 E. Cairo Springfield, MO 65802

Dear Mrs. Kniffin:

Due to a sewer problem, you apparently had to open the sewer line under your house. This open sewer pipe could allow sewer gases to vent back up into your house, causing potentially serious health and safety problems in your home. Some of the most common dangerous gases that exist in the sewer and their hazards (from the Manual of Instruction for Sewage Treatment Plant Operators) are:

Carbon Monoxide: Colorless, odorless, non-irritating. Flammable, explosive. Hemoglobin of the blood has a strong affinity for the gas, causing starvation in the tissues.

Hydrogen: Colorless, odorless, tasteless, non-poisonous. Flammable explosive. Propagates flame rapidly. Acts mechanically to deprive the tissues of oxygen. A simple asphymiant.

Methane: Colorless, odorless, non-poisonous. Flammable, explosive.

Hydrogen Sulfide: Rotten egg odor in small concentrations. Colorless poisonous. Flammable, explosive.

Carbon Dioxide: Colorless, odorless, non-flammable. Not generally present in dangerous amounts unless there is a deficiency of oxygen.

There are, of course, many other substances that can be present in the sanitary sewer.

However, plumbing in good repair is designed to prevent sewer gas from venting back into a building. If you have a plumbing problem under your house, steps should be taken to repair the problem immediately.

2784 E. Cairo

Mrs. Anna Marie Kniffin Page 2 December 3, 1986

Also, this office would like to inform you that a hole in a sewer line that would allow groundwater to enter the City's sanitary sewer is a violation of Section 30-22 of Chapter 30. "Wastewater Regulations," of the Springfield City Code, which states:

No person shall discharge anything other than wastewater to the POTW. Any connection, drain, or arrangement which will permit any other water to enter the POTW shall be deemed to be a violation of this Chapter.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call at 864-1924.

Yours truly,

Karen Chandler Karen Chandler

Water Pollution Control Inspector II

Surveillance & Enforcement

KC: js

cc: Mr. Henry Cole, P.E., Sanitary Engineer
Mr. Robert Schaefer, P.E., Superintendent of Sanitary Services
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